DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Abel Nadar, as you know, Pakuthi Cutcherries are being newly constructed every year so that in course of time you will have new cutcherries everywhere. I shall make it a point to see that all new cutcherries are built in central places where no caste prejudices can operate. In the particular Terur pakuthi Cutcherry which you commented upon at such length, my enquiries go to show-and the Dewan Peishkar and District Magistrate of the Division concerned also has recently communicated with the Tahsildar on the mattter—that no section or caste or community is precluded or prohibited from entering the Taluk Cutcherry there. And similarly in all other Taluk Cutcherries with the exception of one place which is closed for a few days during a religious festival. I shall arrange that early steps are taken for the school and the Pakuthi Cutcherry being transferred from the precincts where a religious ceremony required the monopolisation of the spot by one or two sections of the community.

In regard to Boothapandy where you say certain streets are not open to all castes, I might draw your attention to the case of Myladi where there is a double set of objections. One caste objects to the Shanars and Nadars going through certain streets; and in the other case the Shanars and the Nadars object to the Parayas going through the streets. These are all little inequalities and complexities which are not as prevalent in Travancore now as they were sometime back. As time advances you will find that they become less and less prevalent. If sudden and powerful means are taken to effect proper alignments in buildings it often happens that the whole building crashes. That is the trouble. Such things should be done slowly and carefully.

You heard what I had to say to other communities who complained that they are not adequately represented in the public service. I can only repeat to you that equal opportunities will be ensured, with due regard to efficiency, to all communities in the State.

156. Needs of the Vellalas.

MR. M. SUBRAHMONYA PILLAI (*Member, Nominated*) said that the Vellalas of Travancore first sojourned into the country about two hundred and fifty years ago from Tanjore, Trichinopoly, Madura and other places, in some instances on the invitation of the Maharajas of Travancore. Some of them were given high appointments in the public service mostly as hereditary in particular families. Lands were also granted to them as *Kudumbaporuthi* or *Irayili*.

They had also temples for public worship all over the country to which lands were given free by the Maharajas. Their *Swamiyars* were given *Madams* in different places and there were landed estates granted to these *Madams* by the Sirkar. In the settlement of 1059, however, these lands attached to the temples and *Madams* of the Vellalas were treated as Poramboke lands and they were entered in the registers as such. This mistake should be rectified and the lands should be registered in favour of the corporations concerned or the *Poojaries* officiating in the

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The Vellalas should be recognised as a separate community by themselves just like the Brahmins or the Nayars for the purpose of the Government statistics. They should not be classed along with the many minor communities in the State and be grouped under the omnibus heading of "others."

In the matter of appointments in the public service, Vellalas should be given due encouragement. In olden days the post of Devaswom Pillai, Addikarathil Pillai, Samprathi Pillai, Jamabandi Pillai, Melezhuthu Pillai, Japadakshna Mootha Pillai, etc., and of Dewan Peishkars, Munsiffs and Judges, even of High Court Judges used to be almost monopolised by them. In those days, of course, there were no examinations to be passed. But now they held only a handful of Government appointments.

At least one representative of the Vellala community should be nominated to the Legislative Council and the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly.

In conclusion the member expressed the desire that he should be given an opportunity to partake in the proceedings of both the Legislative Council and the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly for many more years to come.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Subrahmanya Pillai, in regard to the poramboke you mentioned, nobody seems to have known anything at all about it in recent times. During the last settlement, the lands that you mentioned were erroneously shown as they are now recorded and it is the duty of those who feel that they have been deprived of their rights to have applied under the Regulation for the correction of the settlement mistake.

Then in regard to the historical announcement that you made just now, I should say, it shows that these gentlemen who were imported from outside into the State some 250 years ago and who occupied for about two centuries the appointments you just mentioned were extremely fortunate people indeed. But as you say, it was not necessary to pass examinations then to fill those appointments as it is necessary now. I have not the slightest doubt that when Vellalas qualify themselves in large number for appointments, one day, if in open competition with the other communities, they will be able to hold their own and to revert to their former offices.

Your last representation is a very interesting one. But I do not think it will be possible for any President of this Assembly to give an assurance in regard to nominations that have to be made perhaps 10, 15, 20 or 25 years hence. What you want is a life membership in the Council.

The Assembly adjourned for lunch at 2-3 P. M. and re-assembled at 3-2 P. M.

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